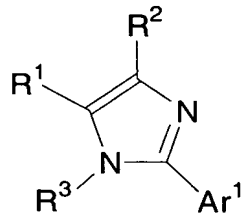
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A method of treating a disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor comprising administration to a patient in need of such treatment of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,

(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,

(7) $-NR^cR^d$,

(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,

(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,

(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and

(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and

(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,

(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,

(3) halogen,

(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,

(5) $-SR^c$,

(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,

(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,

(8) $-NR^cR^d$,

(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,

(10) $-C(O)R^c$,

(11) $-CO_2R^c$,

(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,

(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,

(14) $-CN$,

(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,

(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,

(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(20) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,

(21) $-CF_3$,

(22) $-OCF_3$,

(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and

(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,

(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,

(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,

(4) $-OR^c$,

(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,

(6) $-NO_2$,

(7) halogen,

(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,

(9) $-SR^c$,

(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,

(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,

(12) $-NR^cR^d$,

(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,

(14) $-C(O)R^c$,

(15) $-CO_2R^c$,

(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,

(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,

(18) $-CN$,

(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,

(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,

(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,

(25) $-CF_3$,

(26) $-OCF_3$,

(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,

(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and

(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) -NH(C_{1-10}alkyl),
(6) -N(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,
each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;
each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;
m is selected from 1 and 2; and
n is selected from 1, 2, and 3.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor is selected from: psychosis, memory deficit, cognitive disorders, migraine, neuropathy, neuro-inflammatory disorders, cerebral vascular accidents, head trauma, anxiety disorders, stress, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, substance abuse disorders, constipation, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, cirrhosis of the liver, asthma, obesity, and other eating disorders associated with excessive food intake.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 2 wherein the disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor is an eating disorder associated with excessive food intake.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3 wherein the eating disorder asssociated with excessive food intake is selected from obesity, bulimia nervosa, and compulsive eating disorders.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4 wherein the eating disorder associated with excessive food intake is obesity.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein in the compound of structural formula I:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,

(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,

(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, and

(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and cycloalkyl, are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,

(2) $-SR^c$,

(3) $-S(O)_mR^c$,

(4) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,

(5) $-NR^cR^d$,

(6) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(7) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,

(8) $-C(O)OR^c$, and

(9) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, and

(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, each optionally substituted with one or two groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,

(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,

(3) halogen,

(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,

(5) $-SR^c$,

(6) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,

(7) $-NR^cR^d$,

(8) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,

(9) $-C(O)R^c$,

(10) -CN,

(11) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,

(12) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(13) $-CF_3$,

(14) $-OCF_3$,

(15) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and

(16) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,

(2) $-OR^c$,

(3) halogen,

(4) -CN,

(5) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,

(6) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(7) CF_3,

(8) $-OCF_3$, and

(9) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) -C_{1-10} alkyl,

(3) -NH(C_{1-10} alkyl),

(4) -N(C_{1-10} alkyl)$_2$,

(5) cycloalkyl, and

(6) cycloheteroalkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(3) cycloheteroalkyl,

(4) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(5) aryl,

(6) heteroaryl,

(7) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and

(8) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein in the compound of structural formula I:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen, and

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) –OR^c,

(2) –NR^cR^d,

(3) –$NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(4) –$NR^cSO_2R^d$,

(5) –$C(O)OR^c$, and

(6) –$C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) – methyl, and

(2) – Ar^2;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or two groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl,

(3) cycloheteroalkyl,

(4) aryl, and

(5) heteroaryl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein in the compound of structural formula I:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) methyl, and

(3) ethyl;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,

(2) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(3) $-C(O)OR^c$, and

(4) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each independently selected from:

(1) phenyl,

(2) 4-fluorophenyl,

(3) 2-chlorophenyl,

(4) 3-chlorophenyl,

(5) 4-chlorophenyl,

(6) 4-cyanophenyl,

(7) 4-methylphenyl,

(8) 4-isopropylphenyl,

(9) 4-biphenyl,

(10) 4-bromophenyl,

(11) 4-iodophenyl,

(12) 2,4-dichlorophenyl, and

(13) 2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) methyl,

(3) ethyl,

(4) $-N(CH_3)_2$,

(5) $-NH(CH_3)$,

(6) cyclopentane,

(7) cyclohexane,

(8) cycloheptane,

(9) piperidine,

(10) morpholine,

(11) pyrrolidine,

(12) azepine, and

(13) 4-methylpiperazine,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 8, wherein in the compound according to structural formula I:

R^1 is methyl;

R^2 is $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 is 2,4-dichlorophenyl;

Ar^2 is 4-chlorophenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) cyclohexane, and

(3) piperidine,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the compound of structural formula I is selected from:

(1) ethyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;

(2) ethyl 2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;

(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(4) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(5) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(6) N-(cyclopentyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(7) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(8) N-(morpholin-4-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(9) N-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(10) N-(azepin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(11) N-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(12) N',N'-dimethyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxhydrazide;

(13) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(14) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(15) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(16) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(17) N-(4-methyl-cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide (Isomer A);

(18) N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(19) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(20) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(21) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(22) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(23) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(24) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(25) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(26) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(27) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(28) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(29) N-(cyclohexyl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(30) N-(piperidin-1yl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(31) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(32) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(33) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(34) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(35) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(36) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(37) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(38) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(39) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(40) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(41) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the compound of structural formula I is selected from:

(1) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(2) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

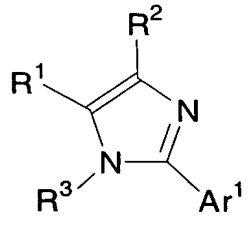
(4) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(5) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(6) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Original) A method of preventing obesity in a person at risk for obesity comprising administration to said person of about 0.001 mg to about 100 mg per kg of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) -OR^c,
(2) -$NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) -$S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) -SR^c,
(6) -$S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) -$S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) -NR^cR^d,
(9) -$O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) -$C(O)R^c$,
(11) -CO_2R^c,
(12) -$CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) -$OC(O)R^c$,
(14) -CN,
(15) -$C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) -$NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) -$OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) -$NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) -$NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) -$CR^c(N\text{-}OR^d)$,
(21) -CF_3,
(22) -OCF_3,
(23) $C_{3\text{-}8}$cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl,
(2) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkenyl,
(3) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkynyl,
(4) -OR^c,
(5) -$NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) -NO_2,
(7) halogen,
(8) -$S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) -SR^c,

(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,
(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(18) -CN,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

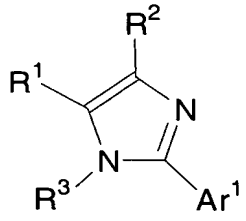
(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) $-N(C_{1-10}alkyl)_2$,
(6) $-NH(C_{1-10}alkyl)$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,
each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;
each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl,
(3) $C_{2\text{-}10}$ alkenyl,
(4) $C_{2\text{-}10}$alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;
m is selected from 1 and 2; and
n is selected from 1, 2, and 3.

13. (Original) A compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from: methyl and ethyl,

wherein methyl and ethyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) –C(O)OR^c, and

(2) –C(O)NR^{c}R^d;

R^3 is selected from methyl and Ar^2;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are phenyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) -OR^c,

(2) -NR^{c}S(O)$_m$R^d,

(3) halogen,

(4) -S(O)$_m$R^c,

(5) -SR^c,

(6) -S(O)$_m$NR^{c}R^d,

(7) -NR^{c}R^d,

(8) -O(CR^{e}R^f)$_n$NR^{c}R^d,

(9) -C(O)R^c,

(10) -CN,

(11) -C(O)NR^{c}R^d,

(12) -NR^{c}C(O)R^d,

(13) -CF$_3$, and

(14) -OCF$_3$;

each R^b is independently selected from: halogen, $C_{1\text{-}3}$alkyl, -CN, and phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl,

(3) $C_{2\text{-}10}$ alkenyl,

(4) $C_{2\text{-}10}$alkynyl,

(5) -NH($C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl),

(6) -N($C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl)$_2$,

(7) cycloalkyl,

(8) cycloalkyl-$C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl,

(9) cycloheteroalkyl,

(10) cycloheteroalkyl-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl,

(11) aryl,

(12) heteroaryl,

(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and

(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,

(5) cycloalkyl,

(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(7) cycloheteroalkyl,

(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(9) aryl,

(10) heteroaryl,

(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and

(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3.

14. (Original) The compound of claim 13 wherein:

R^1 is methyl;

R^2 is $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from methyl and Ar^2;

Ar^1 is phenyl substituted at the 2 and 4 positions with a substituent independently selected from R^b;

Ar^2 is independently selected from:

(1) phenyl,

(2) 4-fluorophenyl,

(3) 2-chlorophenyl,

(4) 3-chlorophenyl,

(5) 4-chlorophenyl,
(6) 4-cyanophenyl,
(7) 4-methylphenyl,
(8) 4-isopropylphenyl,
(9) 4-biphenyl,
(10) 4-bromophenyl,
(11) 4-iodophenyl,
(12) 2,4-dichlorophenyl, and
(13) 2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) methyl,
(3) ethyl,
(4) $-N(CH_3)_2$,
(5) $-NH(CH_3)$,
(6) cyclopentane,
(7) cyclohexane,
(8) cycloheptane,
(9) piperidine
(10) morpholine,
(11) pyrrolidine,
(12) azepine, and
(13) 4-methylpiperazine,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Original) A compound selected from:

(1) ethyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;
(2) ethyl 2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;
(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;
(4) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;
(5) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(6) N-(cyclopentyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(7) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(8) N-(morpholin-4-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(9) N-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(10) N-(azepin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(11) N-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(12) N',N'-dimethyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxhydrazide;

(13) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(14) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(15) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(16) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(17) N-(4-methyl-cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide (Isomer A);

(18) N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(19) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(20) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(21) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(22) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(23) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(24) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(25) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(26) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(27) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(28) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(29) N-(cyclohexyl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(30) N-(piperidin-1yl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(31) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(32) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(33) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(34) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(35) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2;4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(36) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(37) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(38) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(39) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(40) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(41) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Original) The compound according to Claim 15 selected from:

(1) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(2) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(4) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(5) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(6) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

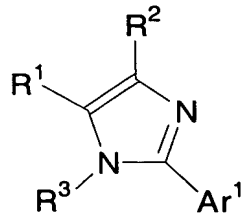
17. (Original) A composition comprising a compound according to Claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (Original) A composition comprising a compound according to Claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (Original) A method of preventing obesity in a person at risk for obesity comprising administration to said person of about 0.001 to about 100 mg/kg of a compound according to Claim 13.

20. (Original) A method of preventing obesity in a person at risk for obesity comprising administration to said person of about 0.001 to about 100 mg/kg of a compound according to Claim 15.

21. (Amended) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) -CN,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-CR^c(N\text{-}OR^d)$,
(21) $-CF_3$,
(22) $-OCF_3$,
(23) $C_{3\text{-}8}$cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl,
(2) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkenyl,
(3) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkynyl,
(4) $-OR^c$,
(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,

(6) $-NO_2$,
(7) halogen,
(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) $-SR^c$,
(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,
(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(18) -CN,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) $-NH(C_{1-10}alkyl)$,
(6) $-N(C_{1-10}alkyl)_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;

(11) aryl,

(12) heteroaryl,

(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and

(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c;

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,

(5) cycloalkyl,

(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(7) cycloheteroalkyl,

(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(9) aryl,

(10) heteroaryl,

(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and

(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

and an anorectic agent selected from: aminorex, amphechloral, amphetamine, benzphetamine, chlorphentermine, clobenzorex, cloforex, clominorex, clortermine, cyclexedrine, dexfenfluramine, dextroamphetamine, diethylpropion, diphemethoxidine, *N*-ethylamphetamine, fenbutrazate, fenfluramine, fenisorex, fenproporex, fludorex, fluminorex, furfurylmethylamphetamine, levamfetamine, levophacetoperane, mazindol, mefenorex, metamfepramone, methamphetamine, norpseudoephedrine, pentorex, phendimetrazine, phenmetrazine, phentermine, phenylpropanolamine, picilorex and sibutramine; or

a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor selected from: fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine and sertraline; or an antidepressant agent selected from: norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, reversible inhibitors of monoamine oxidase, serotonin

and noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors, corticotropin releasing factor antagonists, α-adrenoreceptor antagonists and atypical anti-depressants; or
the VLA-4 antagonist natalizumab; or a steroid or corticosteroid selected from: beclomethasone, methylprednisolone, betamethasone, prednisone, dexamethasone, and hydrocortisone; or an antihistamine selected from: bromopheniramine, chlorpheniramine, dexchlorpheniramine, triprolidine, clemastine, diphenhydramine, diphenylpyraline, tripelennamine, hydroxyzine, methdilazine, promethazine, trimeprazine, azatadine, cyproheptadine, antazoline, pheniramine pyrilamine, astemizole, terfenadine, loratadine, desloratadine, cetirizine, fexofenadine, and descarboethoxyloratadine; or a non-steroidal anti-asthmatics selected from: theophylline, cromolyn sodium, atropine, and ipratropium bromide; or a β2-agonist selected from: terbutaline, metaproterenol, fenoterol, isoetharine, albuterol, bitolterol, salmeterol, epinephrine, and pirbuterol; or a leukotriene antagonist selected from: zafirlukast, montelukast, pranlukast, iralukast, pobilukast, and SKB-106,203; or a leukotriene biosynthesis inhibitors selected from: zileuton, and BAY-1005; or an anti-cholinergic agent selected from ipratropium bromide and atropine; or an antagonist of the CCR-3 chemokine receptors; or
an osmotic agent selected from sorbitol, lactulose, polyethylene glycol, magnesium, phosphate,and sulfate; or a laxative selected from: magnesium and docusate sodium; or a bulking agent selected from: psyllium, methylcellulose, and calcium polycarbophil; or a stimulant selected from an anthroquinone, and phenolphthalein; or
a corticosteroid; or penicillamine; or colchicine; or an interferon-γ, 2-oxoglutarate analog; or a prostaglandin analog; or an anti-inflammatory drug selected from: azathioprine, methotrexate, leflunamide, indomethacin, and naproxen;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22.-31. (Cancelled)